



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 5 June 2023 – Morning

A Level Ancient History

H407/21 Republic and Empire

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **four** questions in total:
Section A: Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.
Section B: Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **98**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A: The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC–AD 68

Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2 **and** answer Question 3.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

- 1* 'The sources fail to provide an adequate assessment of the reigns of the emperors Gaius and Nero.'

How far do you agree with this view?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

- 2* To what extent do you agree that the Senate and senators had only themselves to blame for the decline in their status and power under the principate?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. **[30]**

Answer Question 3.

- 3 Read the interpretation below.

<p>Claudius wanted to rule well, and in many respects he achieved his desire. Yet the main trend of the surviving literary tradition about his rule is contemptuous when it is not hostile, and depicts him as the victim of unscrupulous exploitation by his ambitious freedmen and scheming wives, ... But luckily sufficient imperial enactments survive in inscriptions and papyri to reveal the thought of Claudius himself and these...show that he possessed great administrative common sense. He not only showed skill in his choice of efficient freedmen-servants and outstanding generals (as Corbulo, Vespasian, Hosidius Geta and Suetonius Paulinus), but he also impressed his own mind and policy upon public affairs. In the last few years of his reign, however, his powers began to fail and the traditional view of him as a pawn in the hands of more determined men and women approximates more closely to the truth.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10</p>
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H.H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero* (adapted)

How convincing do you find Scullard's interpretation of Claudius' character and abilities?

You must use your knowledge of the historical period and the ancient sources you have studied to analyse and evaluate Scullard's interpretation. **[20]**

SECTION B: The Breakdown of the Late Republic, 88–31 BC

Answer Question 4 **and** answer Question 5 **or** Question 6.

Answer Question 4.

4 Read the passage below.

But after the Senate's refusal to intervene on his behalf, and his opponents' declaration that compromise was unacceptable in a matter of such national importance, Caesar crossed into Cisalpine Gaul. He held his regular assizes there, and halted at Ravenna determined on war if the Senate took drastic action against the tribunes of the people who had used their vetoes on his behalf. 5

And this indeed became the pretext for civil war, though other motives are suspected. Pompey used to say that Caesar desired general turmoil and confusion because he lacked the means to complete the schemes he had planned, or give the people what they expected on his return. Others say that he feared the necessity of accounting for his actions, in which he had disregarded the laws, the auspices, and all vetoes, during his first consulship. Certainly, Marcus Porcius Cato had often pledged to impeach him, the moment his army was disbanded. And it was repeated, openly, that if he was out of office on his return, he would be tried in a court ringed with armed men, as Milo had been. 10

...
Some claim that the constant exercise of power made him enamoured of it; and that, having weighed his enemies' strength against his own, he grasped this chance of seizing dictatorship, and fulfilling the dreams of his youth. 15

Suetonius, *Deified Julius* 30

How useful is this passage in explaining the reasons for Caesar's actions in 49 BC? [12]

Answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

5* How far was decision making controlled by individual politicians during the period 88–31 BC?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. [36]

6* How far do the sources support Cicero's view that, by 59 BC, 'the Republic was finished'?

You must use and analyse the ancient sources you have studied as well as your own knowledge to support your answer. [36]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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